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MARCH 1, 2002

Gordon Gibbs, Washington State DNR
411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, Washington 98351

RECEIVED

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OLYMPIC REGION

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

Responsible management of the States Resources demands that the Mats Mats Quarry request to mine to any depth beyond the High Tide Line be rejected. We strongly support that decision and urge that it be made promptly to terminate the current operations violation of their operational permit.

1

Sea water intrusion in to our aquifer is of vital concern to all of us in this state and particularly residents in Jefferson County who are dependent upon our wells to support our daily lives and our economy. One breach of the aquifer on the Mats Mats Peninsula, that is surrounded by sea water, could impact or destroy the fresh water resources for a vast area. It is impossible to identify the exact location or extent of the fissure that could cause this catastrophe positively. Basalt is available well above sea level throughout the Olympic Peninsula. The potential extent of loss in this case vastly exceeds any gain by the quarry operation or the community. Studies can be generated in to infinity and costs for all parties compounded, but they can not provide the necessary confidence to allow this operation to continue.

2

A second consideration of major importance is the fulfillment of the restoration commitments that exist under the current permit and those proposed. There are "NO !" provisions to assure ongoing funding to accomplish this task either today or at the minus thirty or sixty foot level. When the cash flow ceases, corporations can disappear with unfulfilled commitments. A trust fund should be established at once to collect an appropriate amount on each ton of material removed.

3

Please act positively to correct a situation that has been allowed to deteriorate seriously.

Sincerely,


William K. Dowling

Response to Letter 16

DOWLING, WILLIAM

1. Comment acknowledged.
2. Please refer to Response to Letter 4 (Jefferson County), comments 18 and 41 for discussions on seawater intrusion.
3. Phased reclamation is an integral component of the proposed mining plan. As under existing conditions, the DNR would monitor the implementation of the Reclamation Plan. A reclamation bond would be provided.